

# CENTER FOR NATIVE EDUCATION

2110 Mackay, room 311, Montreal, Quebec

## NEWSLETTER

December 1995

It's the end of the semester and barely two weeks ago, most of us were probably wondering whether we'd get out of it alive. It's a time when we tend to reassess ourselves and sometimes wonder if we are cut out for the academic life after all. We look back on the semester and ask ourselves whether we could have done better and we await our final grades with great trepidation.

Whatever your grades turn out to be, the end of a semester is not a good time to make rash decisions. Maybe you are disappointed with your performance and are unsure about continuing. However, before you decide to drop out, you should come and talk to us at the Centre. Together, we can help each other grow and reach a decision that you won't regret. In the meantime, stop worrying and enjoy the Holidays! We're looking forward to serving you again in the New Year.

### A Word from the Coordinator

Behind my house, there is an old pine tree that stands more than 80 feet high. It is one of several trees which surround my house. As I step out in the cold morning air, a now familiar sound greets me. It is the sound of a pileated woodpecker, vigorously tapping away at the pine tree.

Where I live, pileated woodpeckers are not a common sight. They are rather shy and prefer the shelter of the forests. For people who claim ownership on the trees that surround them, woodpeckers are sometimes considered a nuisance. Some people think that woodpeckers kill trees, that they ought to remain in the forest. And yet, every morning, I can see the red crest of my brother the woodpecker as he works away at the tree, looking for food. In some places, he has managed to dig holes measuring more than 12 inches in diameter and 6 inches

deep. In other places, he has barely scratched the surface.

As I watch the woodpecker cover the ground with woodchips, he reminds me of Native people. We, too, are like this woodpecker. We need to work hard to achieve our goals and sometimes, we must leave the shelter of our communities to tap into new knowledge and skills. Like the woodpecker, we do not always succeed in making big inroads, but we persevere. We know that it is within us to find the knowledge that we need.

And so, regardless of what other people say or think, we should continue in the path we have chosen. I am sure that my grandfather, the old pine tree, is proud to feed a woodpecker.

### Name for the Newsletter

In our previous newsletter, we asked you to come up with an original name for it. We offered a \$50 gift certificate at the Concordia Bookstore to the person who came up with the best title. This is your last chance to win! You can mail, call or deliver your entry anytime before January 15, 1996.

### Spring Convocation 1996

Graduating in Spring 1996? Don't forget you have to apply for a degree! Deadline is January 15, 1996.

### Hurray for Ellen Gabriel!

As you know, Ellen Gabriel was with us on November 23. Ellen truly mesmerized her audience as she spoke about her role in the Oka Crisis and about the conflicts that are still raging within her community five years later. 60 people were drawn to hear her speak, several of whom were Native



people. Congratulations on a fine talk to Ellen Gabriell!

### Think, Talk Before You Act

Quebec Native Women is hosting a series of workshops targeting urban Native adolescents. The aim of these workshops is the prevention of violence and will cover pressing adolescent issues such as, dating, being able to say no, drug use, racism and family violence, just to name a few. If you have children between the ages of 11 and 17 (or know anyone in that age group) who might be interested, please contact Crystal at 844-9618.

A first meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 26, 1996 at the Montreal Friendship Centre.

### Cree Speakers Needed!

How would you like to make a little extra money next semester? A fluent Cree speaker is needed for a McGill Linguistics class. The ideal candidate must be willing to work 2 hours a week, Mondays and Wednesdays between 1h30 and 2h30. The work basically requires the speaker to orally translate sentences that students make up. The pay is \$12/hour!

Another Cree speaker is required to translate a short passage in a book to be published by Prof. Bina Friewald of the English Department. This work is also paid and the speaker's name will appear in the publication.

If you are interested in any of these jobs, please contact Manon.

### Jobs!

Are you a part-time student eligible for UI benefits? Maybe you know a recent Concordia grad currently unemployed. The Centre for Native Education is searching for a student to fill a 12-week contract as an administrative assistant. Interested? Please contact Manon.

Native Internship Program and Headstart  
(Summer employment with the federal government)  
Extended deadline: February 2, 1996

Pick up your application form at the Centre!

Director, Bachelor of Education Program,  
Winnipeg Education Centre  
Deadline: January 31, 1996

Alcohol/Drug Referral Worker  
Native Friendship Centre and McGill  
University  
Deadline: January 10, 1996

Management Trainee Program  
Federal government  
Recruitment begins in January 1996

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